

STAR WARS®

DARTH VADER

MARVEL

011

GILLEN
LARROCA
DELGADO



SHADOWS AND SECRETS

It is a period of foreboding. After the destruction of the Death Star by a Force-strong rebel pilot, the Sith Lord DARTH VADER has taken it upon himself to discover the pilot's true identity under the Empire's ever-watchful eye.

Using the expertise of droid-archaeologist DR. APHRA and her lethal droids BT-1 and O-O-O, Vader looted a stash of credits from an Imperial cruiser, making it look like an accident. Aphra, using the stolen credits, located Commodex Tahn, the mortician who oversaw Senator Amidala's burial, and confirmed Vader's suspicions about the rebel pilot.

However, Vader's new adjutant Inspector Thanoth knows that all is not what it seems and plans to investigate further. Thanoth has discovered the location of an information broker called THE ANTE and has created a strike force to bring him down....

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The Spire,
Anthan Prime.



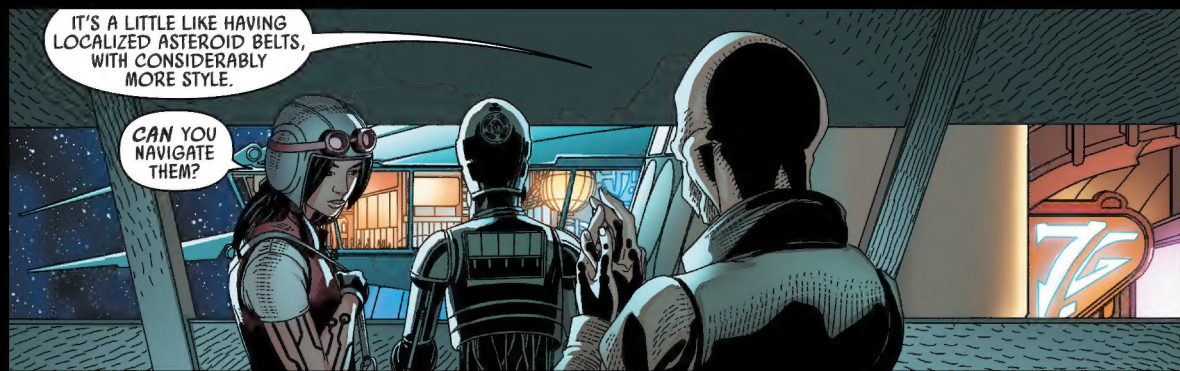
WOW.
THOSE
STORMS ARE
FIERCE.

YOU'RE NOT AT ALL
WORRIED ABOUT
HAVING YOUR BASE
HERE?

THEY BRING THE
TOURISTS HERE TO GAZE
AT THEIR SPLENDOR. THAT
COVERS A LOT OF MY
BUSINESS.

THEY'RE SAFE
AS LONG AS
YOU'RE NOT FOOLISH
ENOUGH TO ACTUALLY
TRY FLYING
THROUGH ONE...







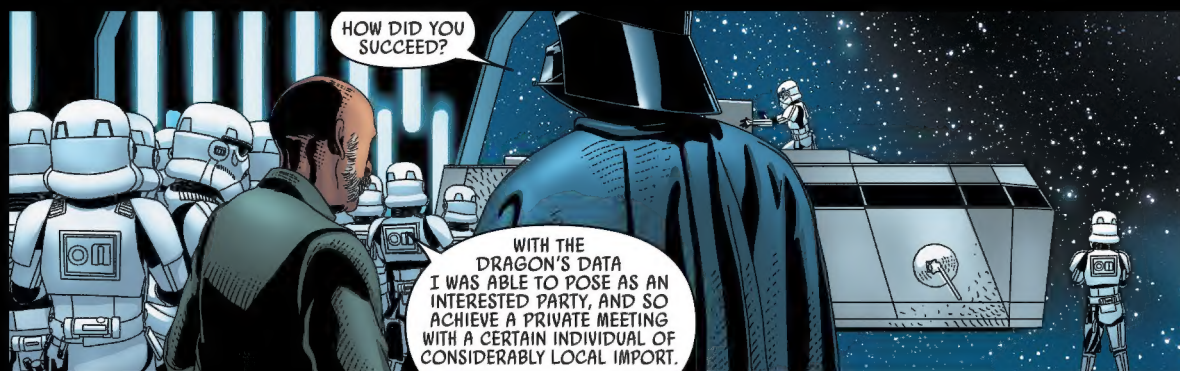
I HAVE THE LEAD!
WE MUST STRIKE,
IMMEDIATELY!

IS THE
STRIKE FORCE
MARSHALLED?

I THOUGHT
YOU THE GREAT
INSPECTOR,
THANOTH.



SURELY
YOU CAN
DEDUCE THAT
YOURSELF?



HOW DID YOU SUCCEED?

WITH THE DRAGON'S DATA I WAS ABLE TO POSE AS AN INTERESTED PARTY, AND SO ACHIEVE A PRIVATE MEETING WITH A CERTAIN INDIVIDUAL OF CONSIDERABLE LOCAL IMPORT.



I'VE MANAGED TO FIND THE SECTOR'S PRIME INFO BROKER--THE ANTE.

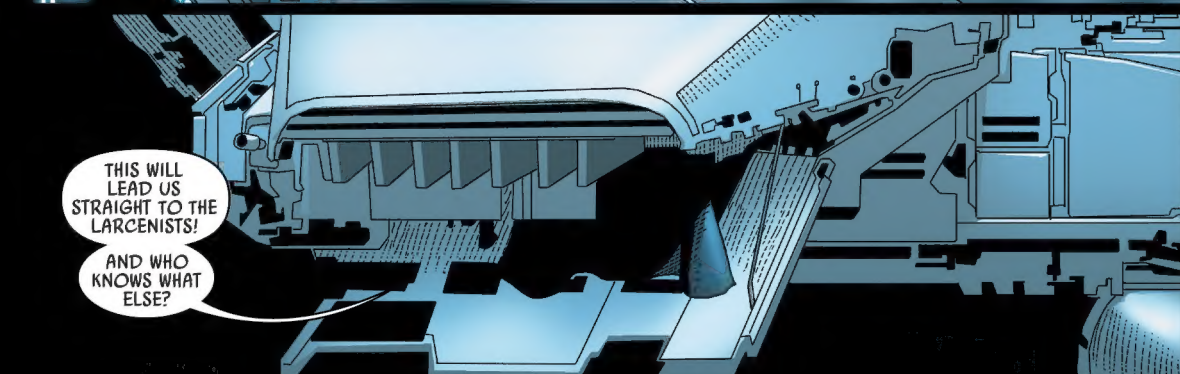
HE'S CURRENTLY BASED IN THE UNDERSIDE OF THE SPIRE.



THIS IS... GOOD, THANOTH.

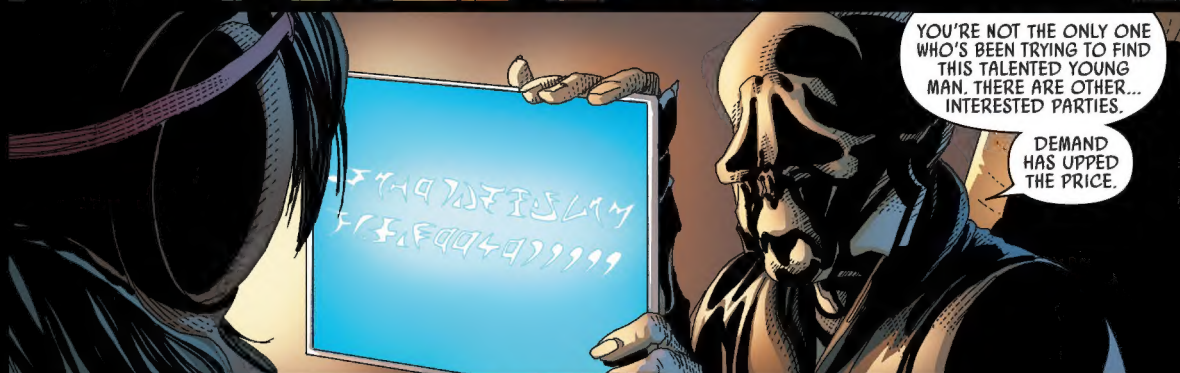
IT IS! HIS SYSTEMS WOULD INCLUDE DETAILS OF EVERYTHING OF NOTE THAT HAS OCCURRED. IF WE CAN GET THERE BEFORE HE MANAGES TO DESTROY THEM, THIS WOULD BE A GOLD MINE.

THE CLOCK IS TICKING!



THIS WILL LEAD US STRAIGHT TO THE LARCENISTS!

AND WHO KNOWS WHAT ELSE?





IN THE LONG
RUN, A RELIABLE
TRADING PARTNER
WILL MAKE MORE
PROFIT.

EVENTUALLY
SOMEONE WILL
PAY MY PRICE, AND
EVERYONE WILL BE
BETTER OFF.



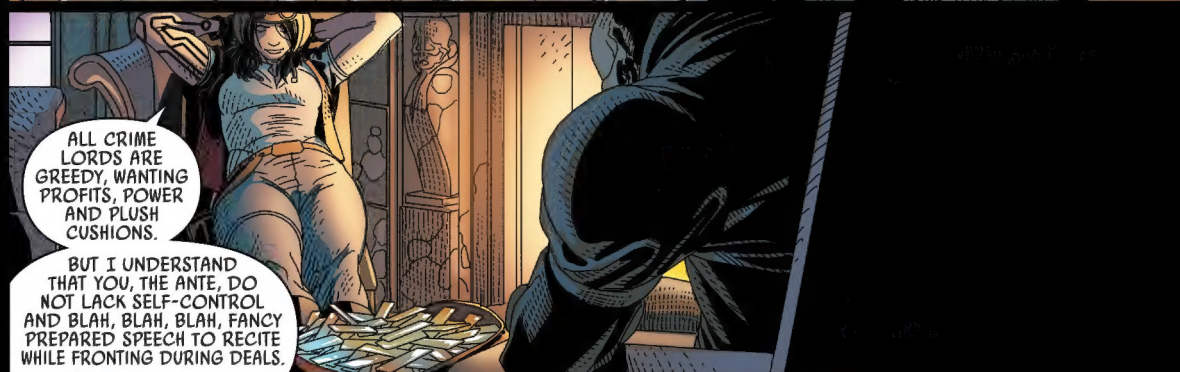
GLAD
TO BE THAT
SOMEONE.

KEEP
THE CHANGE,
EH?



YOU BRING THIS MUCH
HERE? WITH NOTHING BUT A
PAIR OF DROIDS FOR
PROTECTION?

YOU ARE
TRUSTING.



ALL CRIME
LORDS ARE
GREEDY, WANTING
PROFITS, POWER
AND PLUSH
CUSHIONS.

BUT I UNDERSTAND
THAT YOU, THE ANTE, DO
NOT LACK SELF-CONTROL
AND BLAH, BLAH, BLAH, FANCY
PREPARED SPEECH TO RECITE
WHILE FRONTING DURING DEALS.



THIS IS
A RATHER
LARGE AMOUNT
OF IMPERIAL
CREDITS...

I HAD MY
SUSPICIONS ABOUT
THE SON-TUUL PRIDE'S
FORTUNE...



I'D SAY
THIS VERY
CIRCUMSTANTIAL
EVIDENCE WOULD
CONFIRM MY
PREJUDICES...



CAN WE STOP WITH WHAT
I CAN ONLY PRESUME IS
CRIME LORD FLIRTING? NO,
I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOUR
ENORMOUS UNDERCOVER
OPERATION!

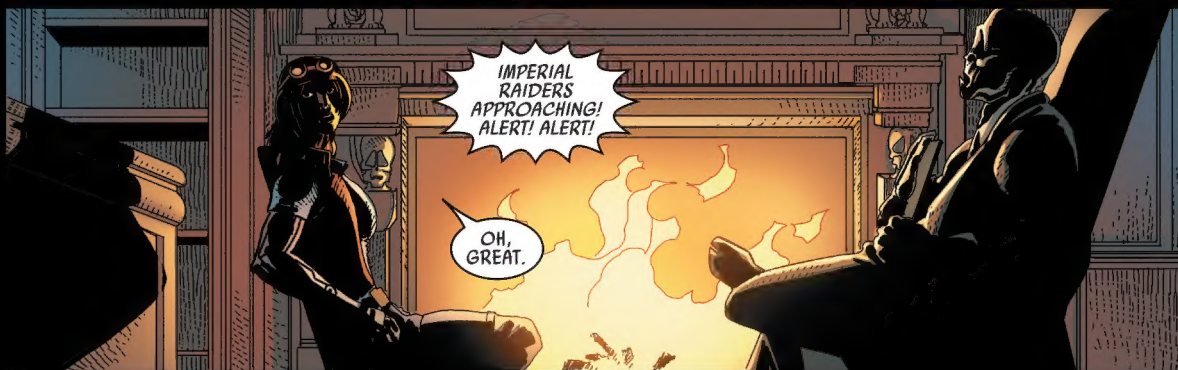
GIVE ME
THE KID'S
LOCATION AND
LET ME GET OUT
OF HERE.



HE'S
ON VROGAS
VAS.

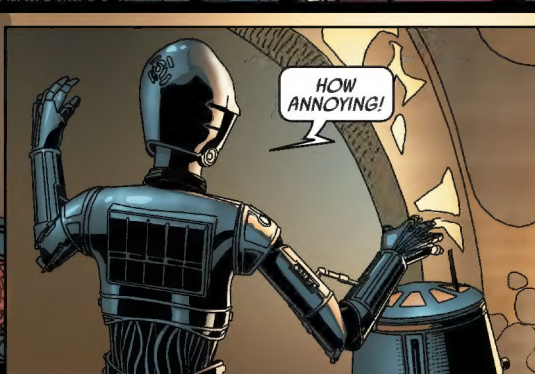
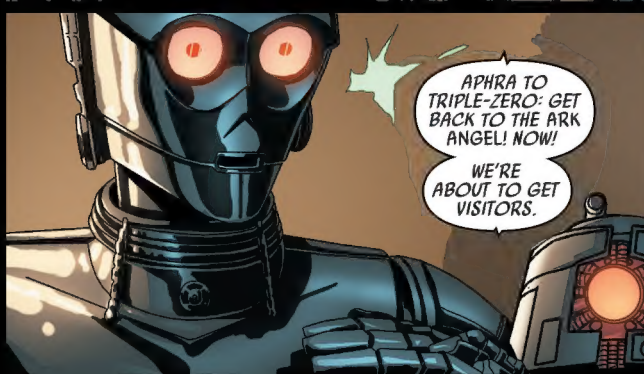
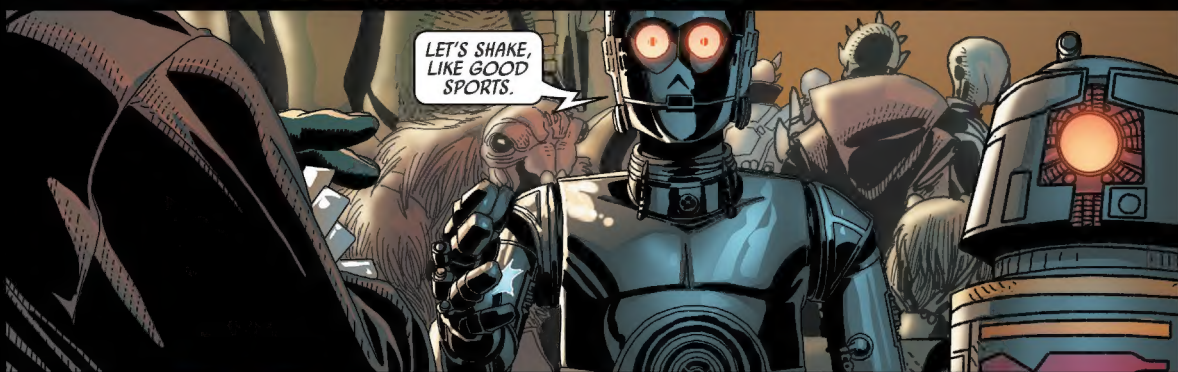
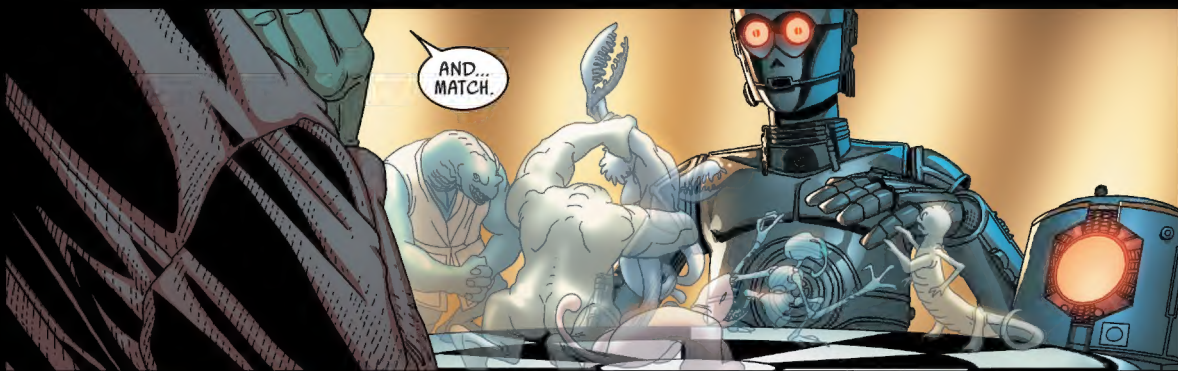


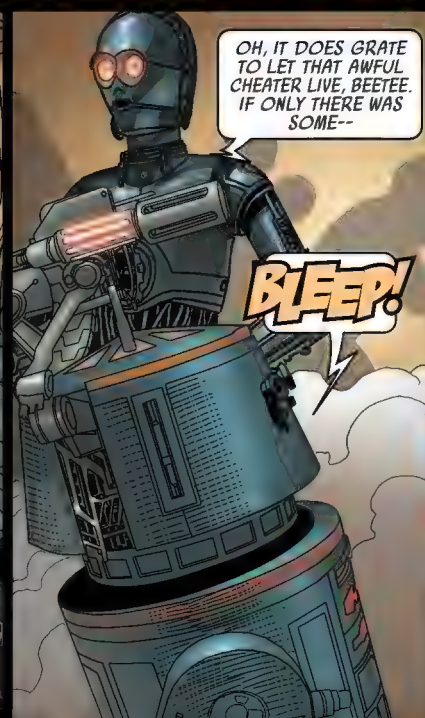
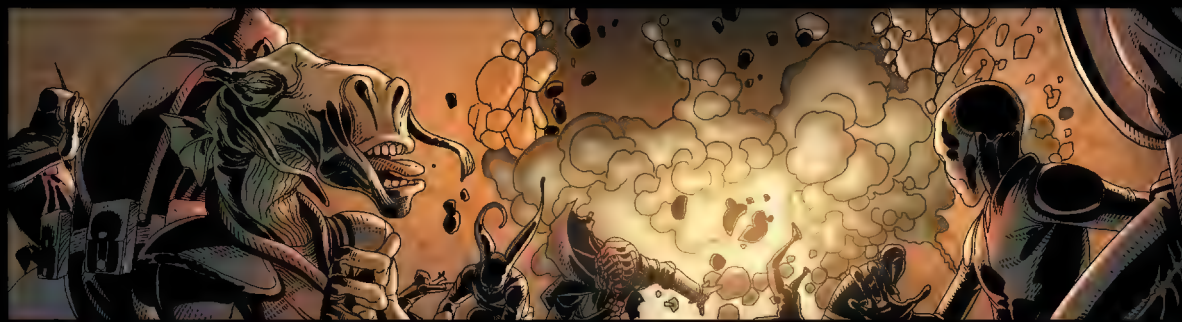
THE ANTE,
YOU ARE
THE BEST.

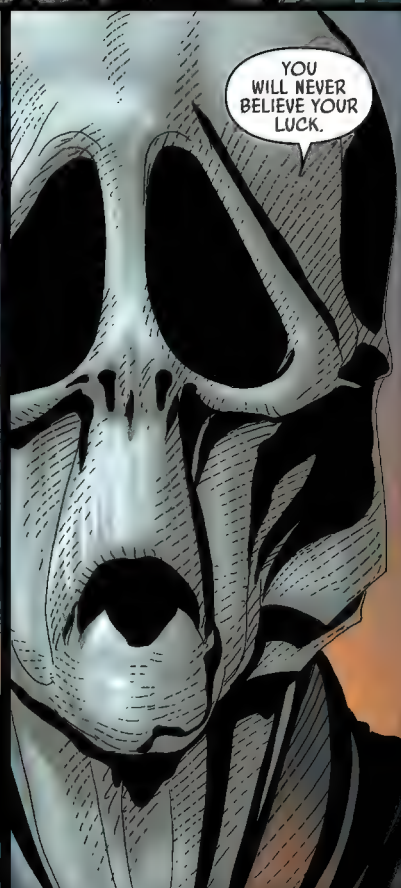
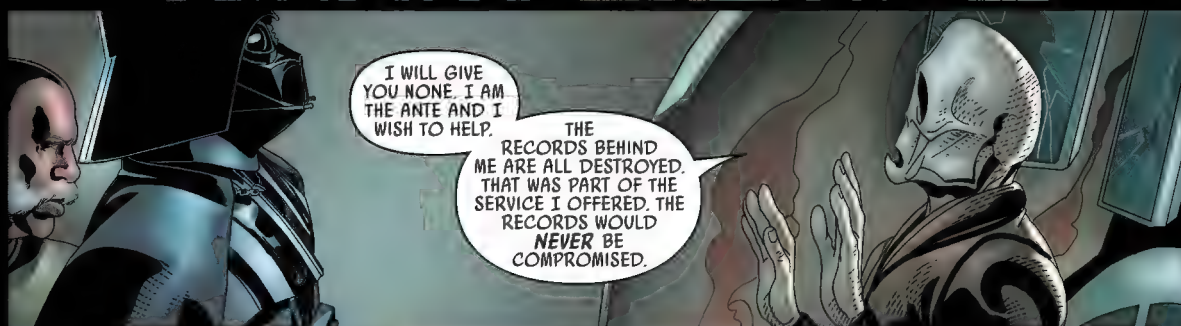
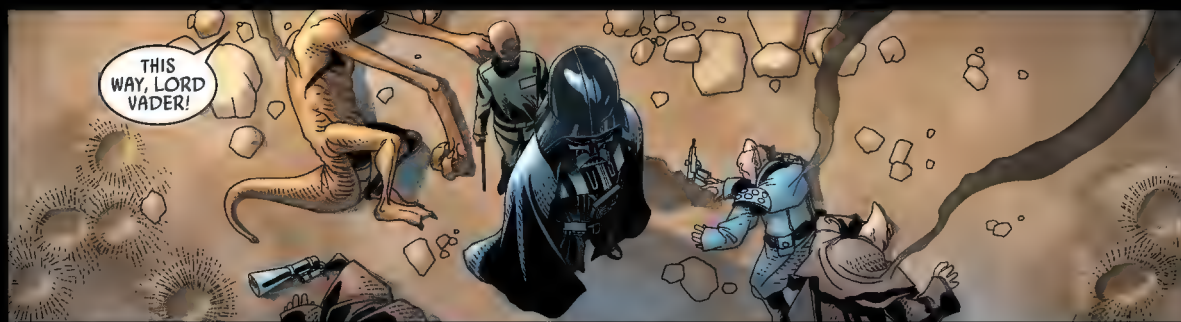


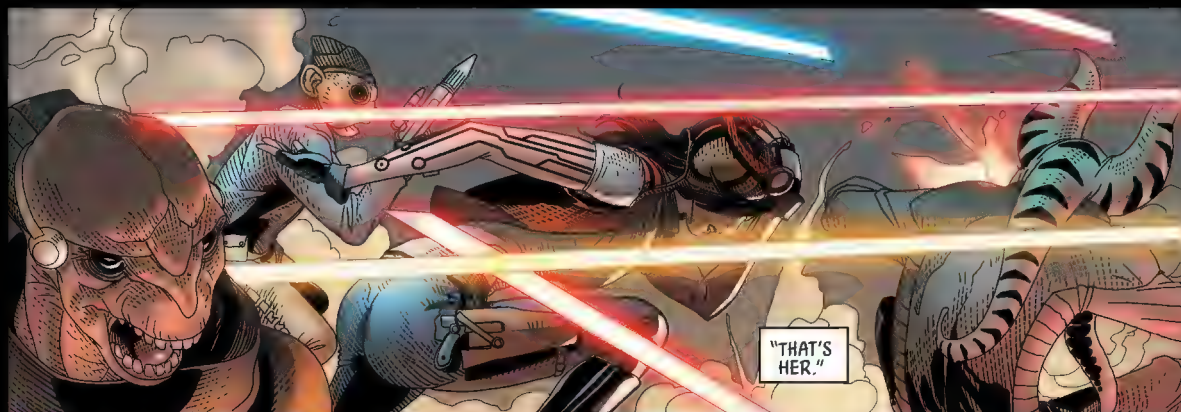
IMPERIAL
RAIDERS
APPROACHING!
ALERT! ALERT!

OH,
GREAT.





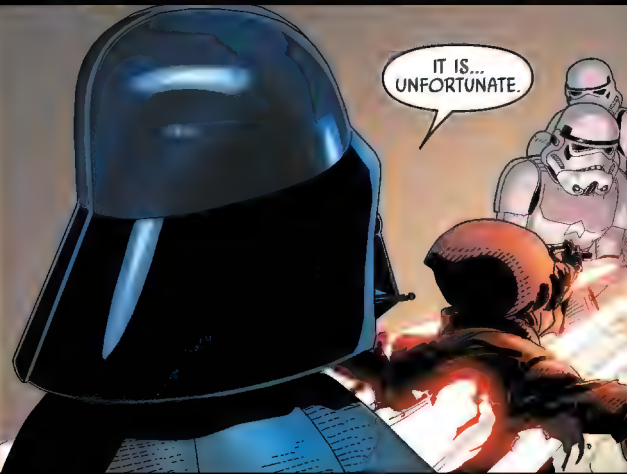






UNLUCKY
STRAY
SHOT.

HE COULD
HAVE TOLD
US SO MUCH
MORE.



IT IS...
UNFORTUNATE.

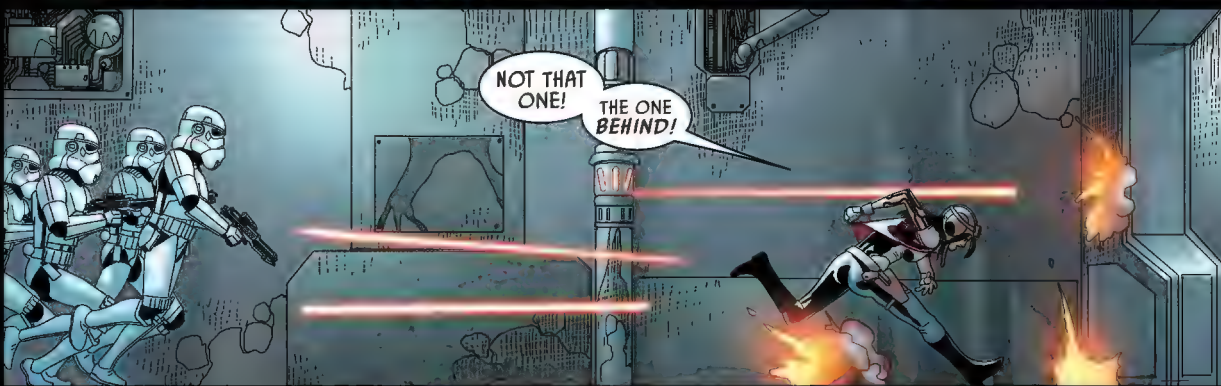
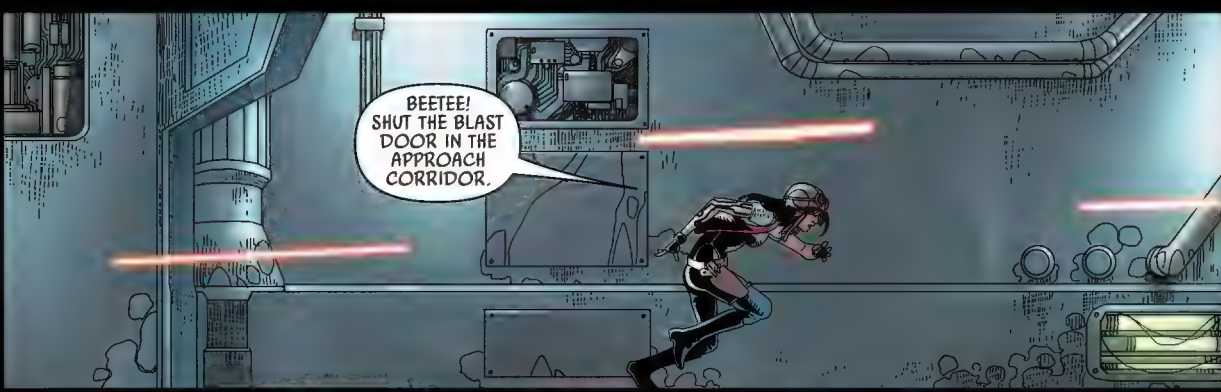


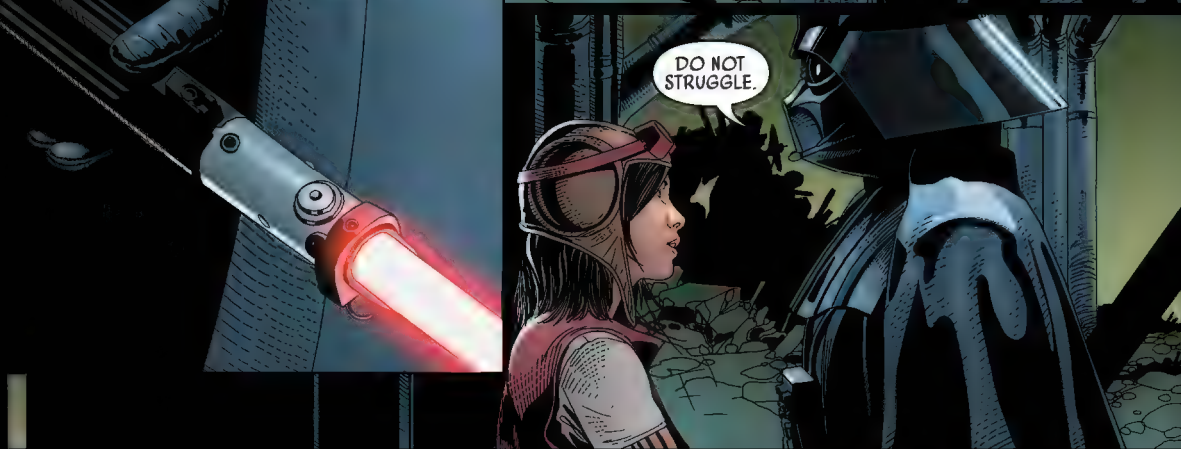
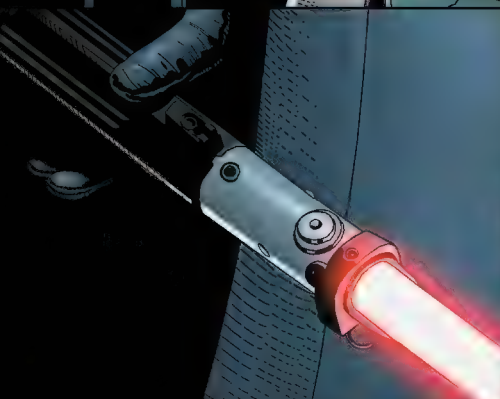
BUT
WE HAVE OUR
TARGET.

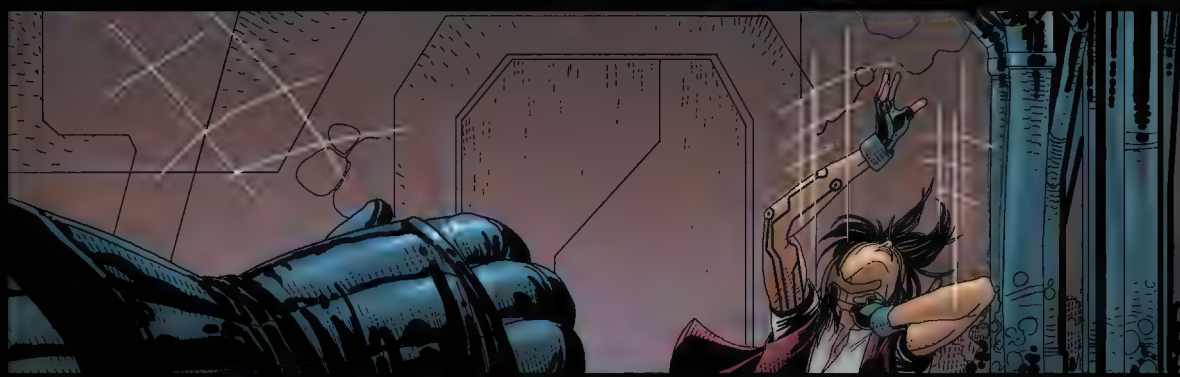
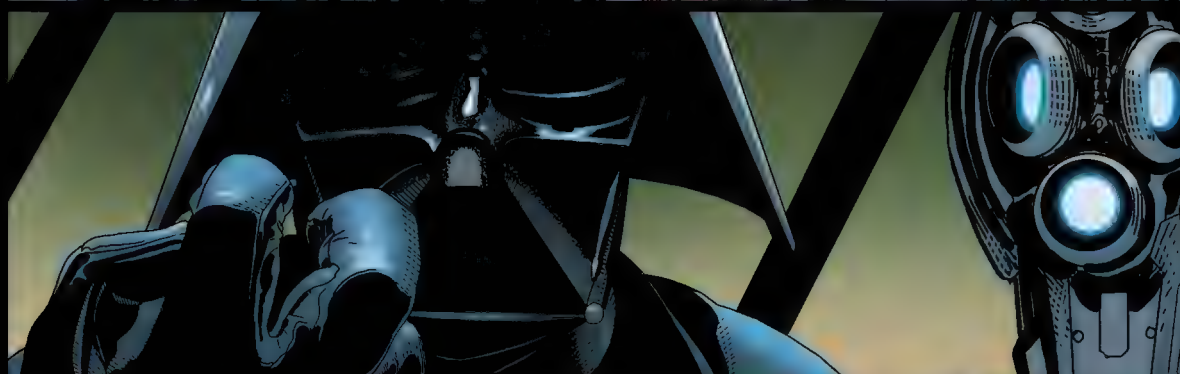
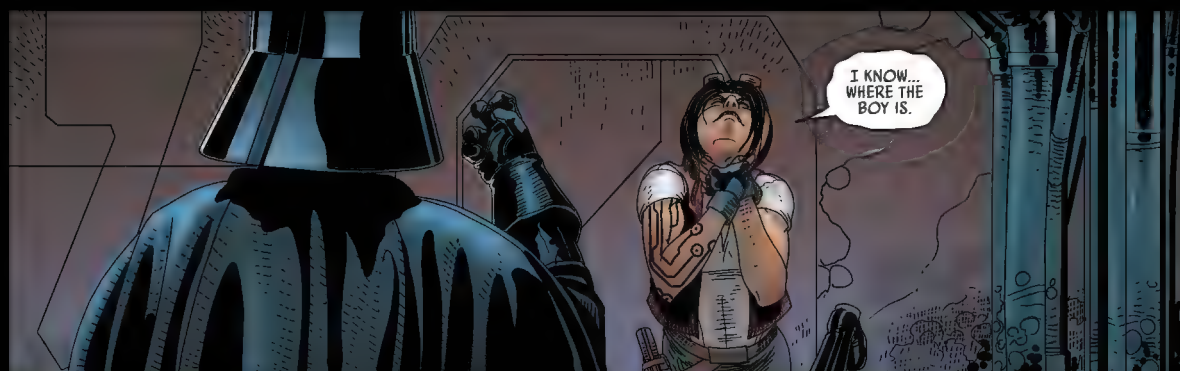
INSPECTOR
THANOTH TO ALL
STORMTROOPERS!
AFTER HER!

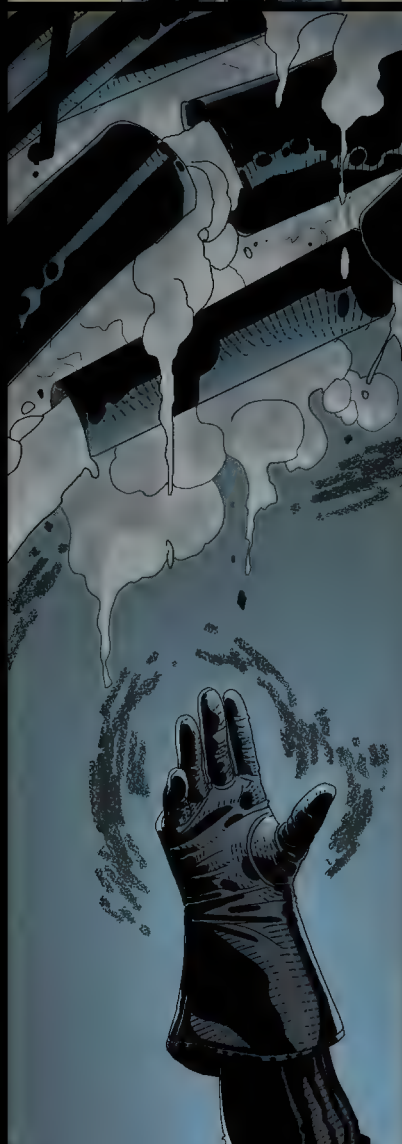
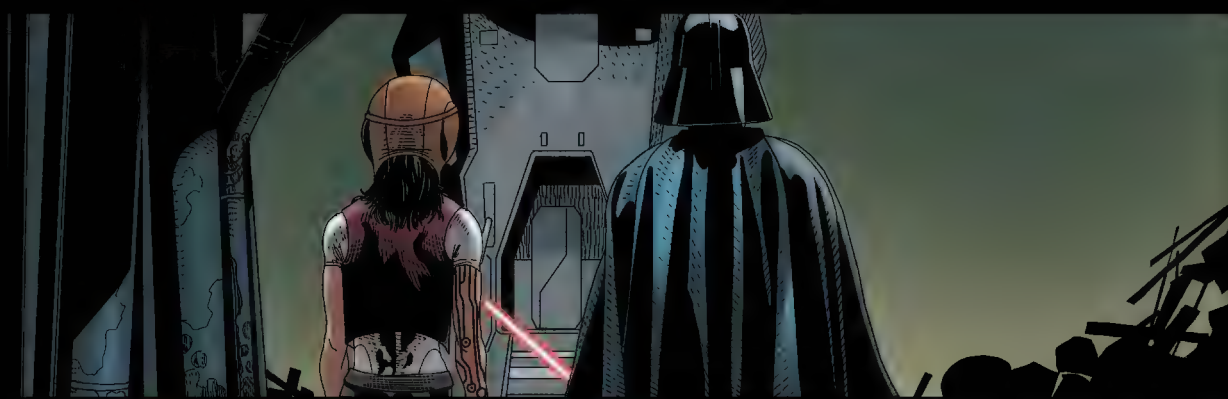


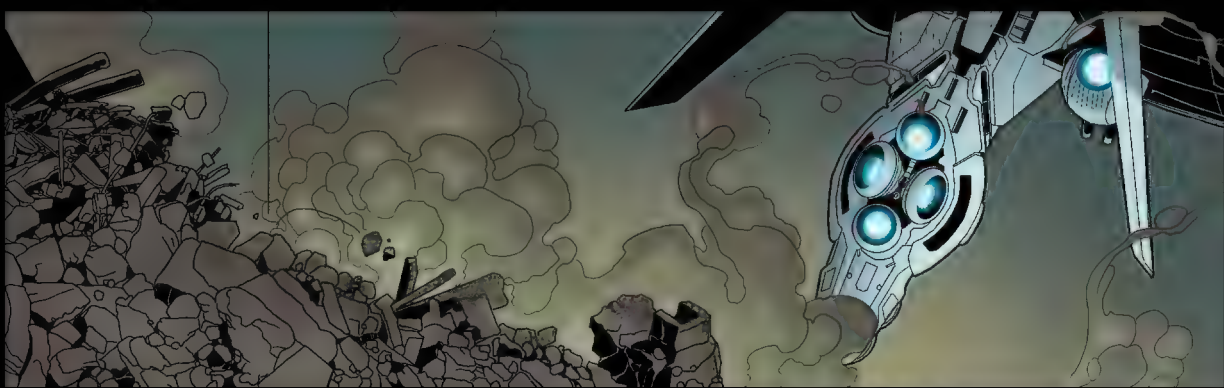
SHE
WILL NOT
ESCAPE.



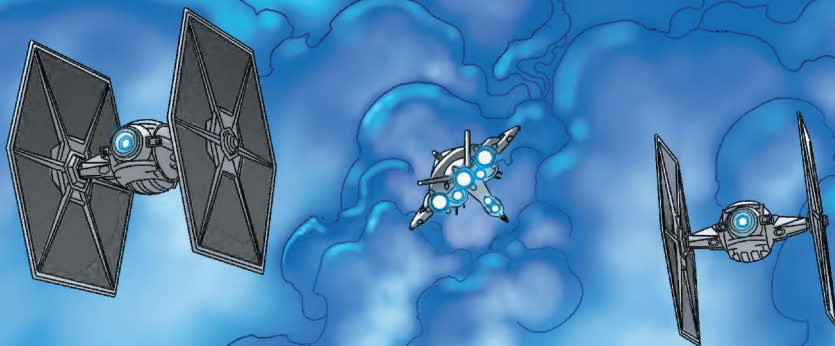








"...ALWAYS
GOOD TO
SET A TRAP."



YOU
KNOW, I THINK
THE ANTE WAS
RIGHT...



THESE
STORMS REALLY
ARE PRETTY!

I WOULD CONCUR,
ASSUMING YOU
MEANT "PRETTY
LIKELY TO KILL YOU."

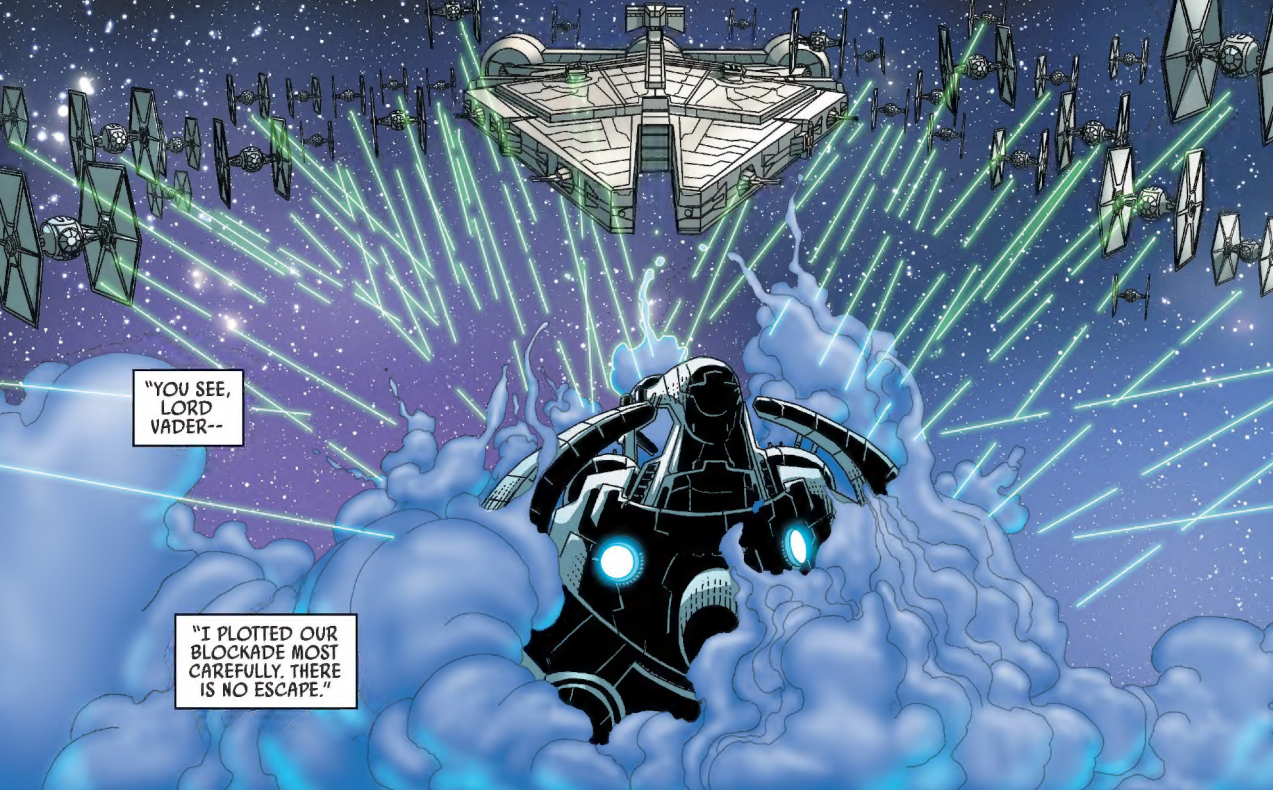
BLEEP!

I HAVE TO AGREE,
BEETEE. BEING
TERMINATED WOULD
CURTAIL OUR FUTURE
PLANS FOR HAVOC.
CAN WE MAKE SPEED,
MISTRESS APHRA?



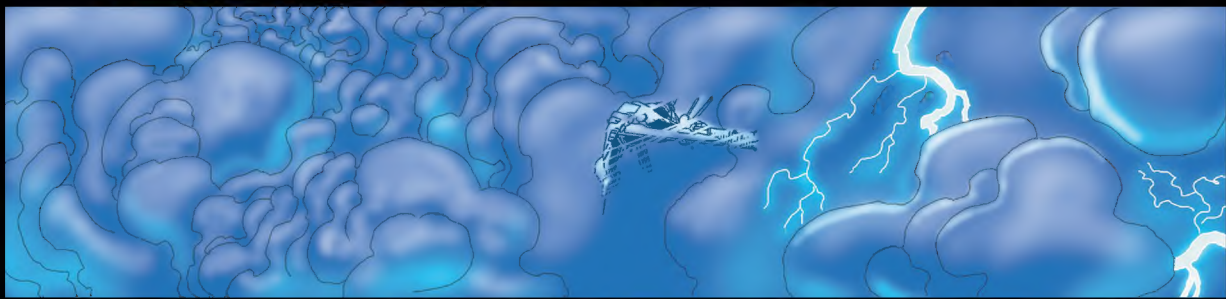
ALMOST
THROUGH.
ALMOST...





"YOU SEE,
LORD
VADER--"

"I PLOTTED OUR
BLOCKADE MOST
CAREFULLY. THERE
IS NO ESCAPE."



"SOONER
OR LATER WE'LL
HAVE HER IN
OUR HANDS."



"AND THEN
WE'LL SEE WHAT
SHE HAS TO
SAY, HMM?"

DARTH VADER

NEXT ISSUE!



